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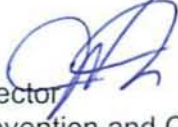
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April 11, 2012

TO: Each Health Deputy

FROM: John Viernes, Jr., Director 
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

SUBJECT: **WILSHIRE TREATMENT CENTER CLOSURE**

This is to inform you that the Department of Public Health (DPH) Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) has suspended its agreement with Wilshire Treatment Center (WTC). The agency was located in the Third Supervisorial District, at 11901 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 204, Los Angeles, California 90025. SAPC contracted with WTC to provide Narcotic Treatment Program Drug Medi-Cal (NTP-DMC) services with a funding allocation of \$367,023.

Closure of WTC resulted from an investigation by the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs' (ADP) which uncovered several significant deficiencies. ADP investigators found evidence of questionable physician oversight (e.g., the executive director electronically signed as a physician on official documents, and counselors or nurses prescribing dosing changes instead of a physician) and other violations, including inappropriately prescribed methadone take-homes. Methadone take-homes are doses prescribed in advance for patients who have a history of appropriate methadone use and positive participation in treatment. ADP found that WTC's medical director appeared to have authorized take-homes for patients who do not qualify.

On March 27, 2012, ADP suspended the WTC's NTP-DMC license and closed the agency. ADP collected all client files and transferred all WTC clients to other NTP-DMC programs in the area. SAPC assisted in the transfer of clients and collection of client records. SAPC will keep possession of all client records.

SAPC will continue to work with ADP regarding the status of WTC's license. Should ADP terminate the license, SAPC will immediately terminate the agency's contract.

Each Health Deputy
April 11, 2012
Page 2

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

JV:dhd

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